
NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
March 24, 2005



NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program

Mission: Conserve coral reef ecosystems

Goal: Effective management to reduce threats to reef ecosystems

Strategy: U.S. National Action Strategy (13 goals)

Reqmts: Coral Reef Conservation Act (6 actions)
U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (E.O. 13089)

Structure: Cross-NOAA collaboration since 2000
Specific funding: \$28.7 M FY2005
Formal matrix program



History of U.S. Action



- 1994 International Coral Reef Initiative established.
All Islands Coral Reef Initiative established.
International Year of the Reef.
U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, Executive Order 13089.
- 2000 1st U.S. National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs.
New NOAA funding: \$6 M
Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.
- 2001 NOAA funding: \$27 M
- 2002 NOAA funding: \$28.25 M
- 2003 NOAA funding: \$26.25 M
- 2004 NOAA funding: \$ 26.85M
- 2005 NOAA funding: \$28.74 M
- 2006 NOAA funding request: \$1.5 M increase for Local Action
Strategy Support



Coral Reef Conservation Program: NOS Responsibilities

1. Interagency: Help lead and staff the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force
2. Legislative: Lead implementation of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000
3. Financial: Manage NOS coral funds (\$27.6 M)
4. NOAA: Lead NOAA Coral Reef Matrix Program (Matrix Manager)



NOS Role #1: US Coral Reef Task Force

Members

12 Federal Agencies

7 States, Territories, Commonwealths

3 Freely Associated States

Tasks:

lead and support U.S. Coral Reef Activities

map and monitor U.S. coral reefs

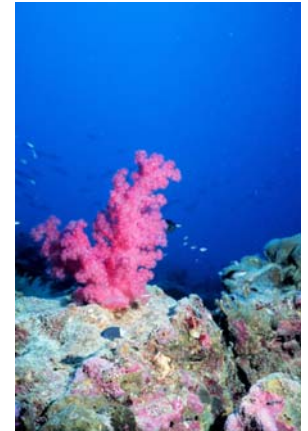
research coral reef degradation

reduce and mitigate coral reef loss

review existing authorities and navigational aids

assess U.S. international role in coral reef protection

promote conservation and sustainable use of
coral reef ecosystems worldwide



Actions:

U.S. National Action Plan (2000)

New Initiatives, such as Local Action Strategies

Increased Inter-Agency Coordination

Report to Congress: Progress Report



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National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs (2000)

Understand Coral Reef Ecosystems:

Goal 1: Map all U.S. coral reefs

Goal 2: Assess, monitor and
forecast reef health

Goal 3: Conduct strategy research

Goal 4: Understand social and
economic factors



Reduce Impacts of Human Activities:

Goal 5: Improve use of MPAs

Goal 6: Reduce impacts of fishing

Goal 7: Reduce impacts of coastal uses

Goal 8: Reduce impacts of pollution

Goal 9: Restore damaged reefs

Goal 10: Improve outreach and education

Goal 11: Reduce threats to intl reefs

Goal 12: Reduce impacts from intl trade

Goal 13: Improve coordination and
accountability



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NOS Role #2: **Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000**

Establish and implement for NOAA:

1. National Coral Reef Action Strategy
2. Coral Reef Grants Program
3. Coral Reef Conservation Fund
4. Emergency Response Grants
5. National Coral Reef Program
6. Reporting Requirements

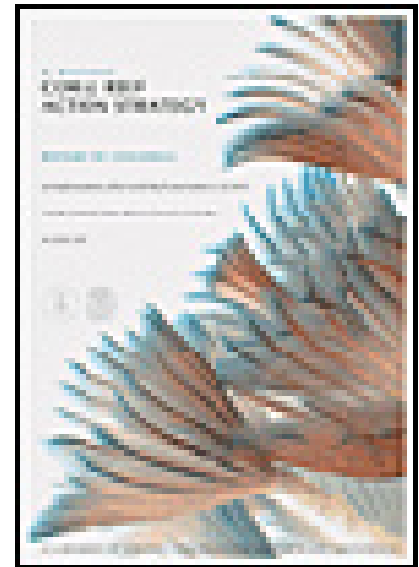


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Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000

1. National Coral Reef Action Strategy

- Report to Congress (Oct 2002)
- Produced by NOAA and the Coral Reef Task Force
- Assesses priority threats by region
- Two year strategy to address threats
- Addresses 13 goals of the U.S. National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs



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Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000

2. Coral Reef Grants Program

- Established in 2002
- Joint NOS/NMFS/OAR competitive matching grants
- Management, monitoring, research, international
- Many partners: States, Territories, FMCouncils, etc
- FY04: \$8.4 M

3. Coral Reef Conservation Fund:

- Established 2002 with National Fish and Wildlife Fndn
- Leverage non-Federal resources and build private-public partnerships for coral reef conservation.
- Since 2002: \$2.7 M NOAA + \$4.8 M match = \$7.5 M
- 84 projects, 15 countries

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Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000

4. Emergency Response Grants

- Authorizes grants for emergency situations

5. National Coral Reef Program

- Support for NOAA's role in the National Action Plan
- Fulfill NOAA's Federal Responsibilities
- Cross-NOAA planning and coordination
- Formal Coral Coordination Team
- Joint Annual Spend Plans (NOS, NMFS, OAR, NESDIS),
Outyear initiatives



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Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000

6. Reporting Requirements

- Grants Effectiveness Report – Delivered to Congress, December 2004
 - Provides state-by-state summary of Federal and non-Federal contributions
- National Program Progress Report – Anticipated delivery to Congress, April 2005
 - Currently in final clearance with NOAA HQ



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NOS Role #3:

Manage NOAA and NOS coral funding

Line Office	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05
NMFS	\$11 M	\$11 M	\$11 M	\$0	\$0
NOS	\$16 M	\$16 M	\$14 M	\$25.6 M	\$27.6 M
NESDIS		\$0.75 M	\$0.75 M	\$0.75 M	\$0.65 M
OAR		\$0.50 M	\$0.50 M	\$0.50 M	\$0.49 M
TOTAL	\$27 M	\$28.25 M	\$26.25 M	\$26.85 M	\$28.74M

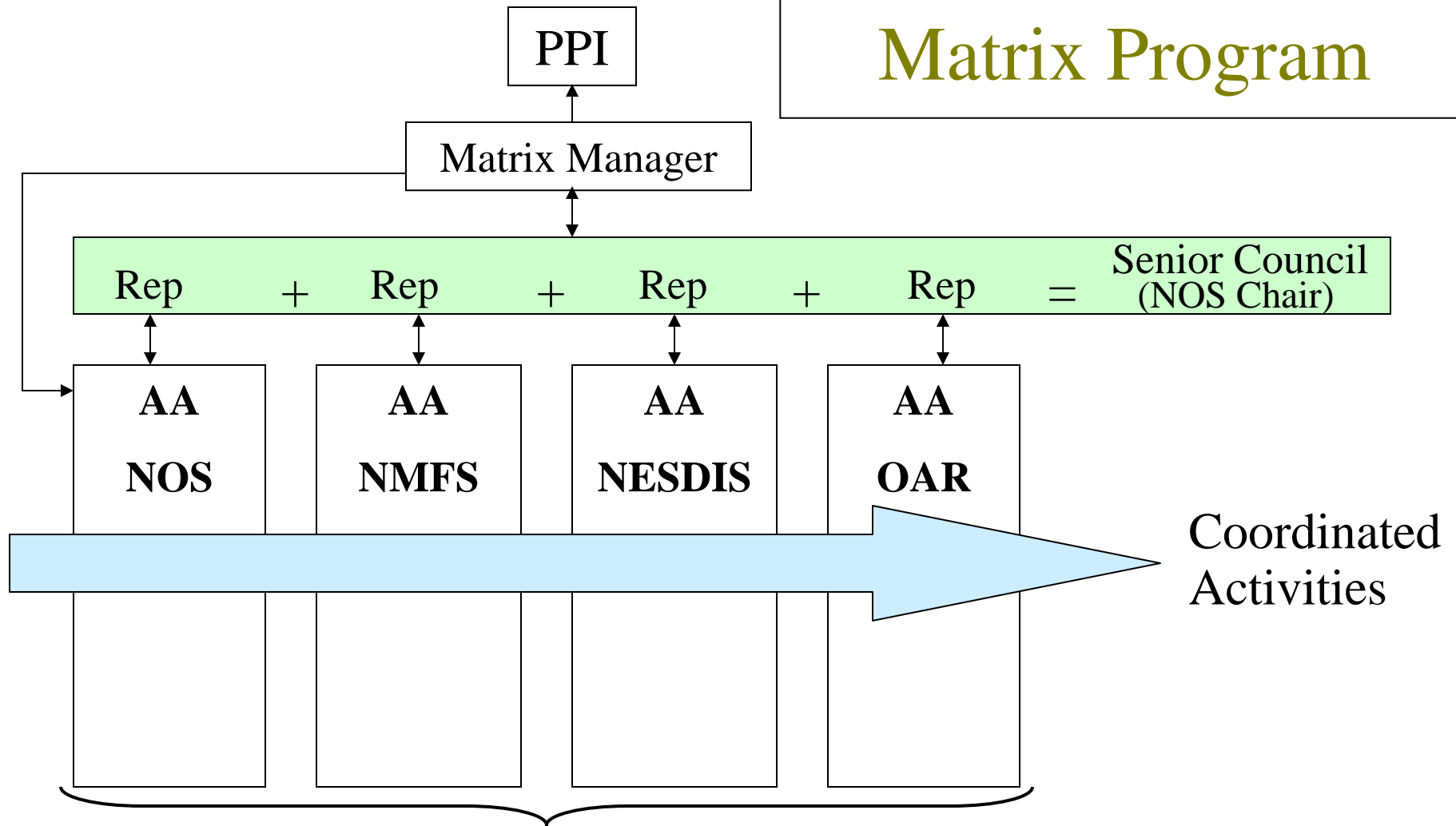


NOS Role #4: **NOAA's Coral Reef Matrix Program**

- NOS is “host” line office
- Matrix Manager in NOS
- Core Program
- Key Program Participants:
NOS, NMFS, NESDIS, OAR



Structure of Matrix Program



Joint Spending Plans; Outyear Plans;
Performance Tracking

Operating Principles

- *Scope*: National in scope, Regional/Local in implementation
- *Foster Partnerships*: state and territory governments, federal agencies, industry, NGOs, academia
- *Build Capacity*: state and territories
- *Implement Solutions*: institutionalize experience, explore new approaches



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Primary Customers

- Internal
 - Federal Agencies
- External
 - International Partners
 - Academia
 - Local Communities
 - NGOs
 - State, Territory Governments
 - FMCouncils
 - Local Resource Managers
 - Resource Users
 - Private Sector



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Key Stakeholders:

U.S. States and Territories

Pacific:

- Hawaii
- Guam
- Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas
- American Samoa
- Freely Associated States

Atlantic:

- Florida
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- Puerto Rico



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NOS Partners

- Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R)
- National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)
 - Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Science (CSCOR)
- International Program Office (IPO)
- Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management (OCRM)
- National Marine Sanctuaries Program (NMS)
- Special Projects Office (SPO)



NOS: Products and Services

Mapping and Monitoring

- Comprehensive coral reef habitat maps, high-resolution topography maps, and GIS maps
- Monitoring support, including grants to States and Territories, and establishing and sustaining monitoring stations
- NOAA vessel, HI'IALAKAI (2004)

Management Support

- Hawaii Coral Reef Valuation Study
- NWHI Coral Reef Reserve
- Coral Reef Conservation Fund and Coral Reef Conservation Grants to assist States and Territories in managing coral reef issues

Information

- Abandoned vessel database and website
- Environmental Sensitivity Indices
- NOAA-wide database on coral reef information (CoRIS)
- State of the Reef Report

Education/Outreach

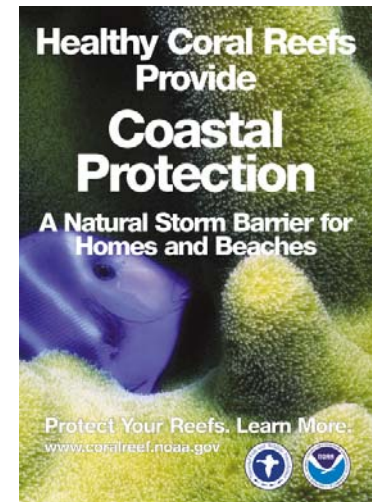
- Workshops on Coral Disease and Health; Fisheries Enforcement
- New learning center dedicated to the NWHI
- Education materials for elementary school students, incl. a coral reef textbook; Florida teacher training



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NOS: Outreach and Communication

- Critical component of program activities to:
 - Translate scientific research *to build public support for management efforts*
 - Improve effectiveness of management *by understanding stakeholder motivations*
 - Affect user behavior *through skills-building workshops and trainings*
 - Promote informed decision making
 - Broaden constituent base
- Program Examples:
 - Local Action Strategies
 - Workshops (e.g. coral disease, fisheries enforcement)
 - CoRIS website
 - Education (brochures, exhibits, textbooks)



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Revised FY06 Process (Draft)

- Determine overall program priorities
 - 3 year time horizon
 - focus on fewer priorities
 - input from coral reef managers
- Determine “core” activities to be funded
- Determine funds available for (more focused) competitive process
- Revised process under development
 - may change
 - may be implemented in phases



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Opportunities

- Better coordination across CRCP
- Better leveraging of resources
- Highlighting of issues and priorities
- Communication of accomplishments
- Increased partnerships
- Improved defense of budgets



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Contact Information

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Coral Reef Conservation Program (N/ORR)
1305 East West Highway, 10th Floor
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
(301) 713-2989**



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Personnel

Office of Response and Restoration:

- David Kennedy – Program Manager
- Roger Griffis – Program Coordinator
- Helen Golde – Team Manager
- Kara Meckley – PPBES, cross-LO coordination
- Alissa Barron – Outreach and education
- Nate Cardoos – Newsletters and websites, CoRIS
- Beth Dieveney – CRTF Coordination
- Shannon Simpson – Legislative, budget, and NOS coordination



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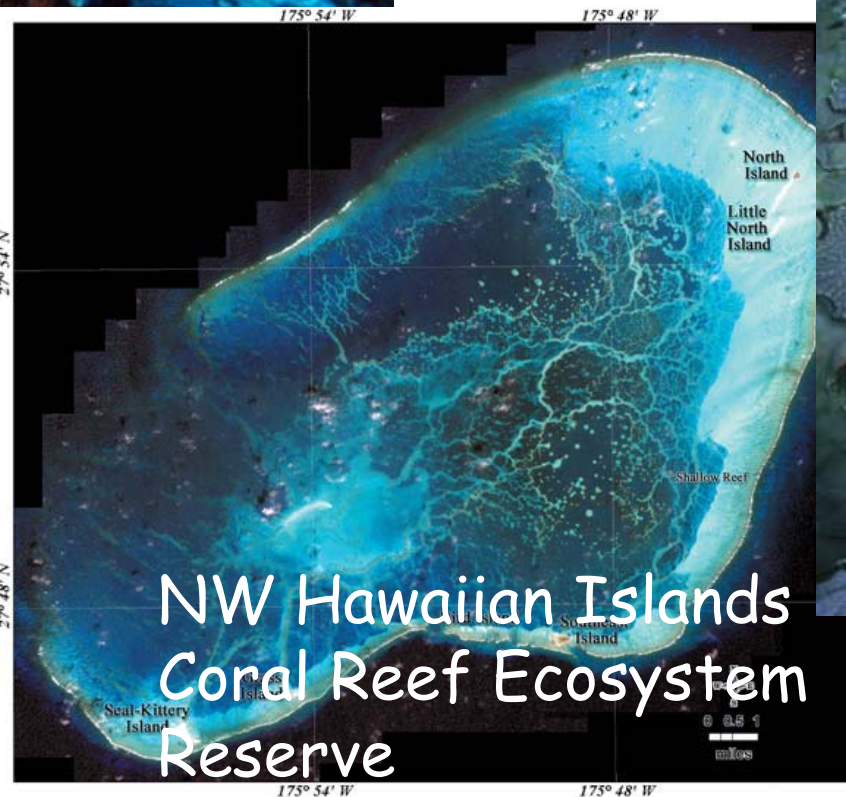
•Fagatele Bay

Coral Reef Marine Sanctuaries



Florida Keys

Paige Gill - Florida Keys NMS



NW Hawaiian Islands
Coral Reef Ecosystem
Reserve



Flower Gardens

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Office of Response and Restoration

NMSP Opportunities

- Research Facilitation
- Conservation Science Needs - identified for each site, regionally, and for the system
- Publication - Special journal issues, Conservation Series
- Outreach - web sites (national and site-based)



Current Focus Areas

- Site characterizations (print, web, management tools, such as GIS)
- Reserve effectiveness
- Improvement of monitoring programs
- Ocean observing (enhancements, integration, data dissemination)
- Mapping and deep water characterization



Points of Contact

SE and Gulf of Mexico Region - Billy Causey

- Florida Keys NMS Brian Keller, Res. Coord.
- Flower Garden Banks NMS Emma Hickerson, Res. Coord.

Pacific Islands Region - Allen Tom

- Fagatele Bay NMS Nancy Daschbach, Mgr
- NW Hawaiian Islands CRER Randall Kosaki, Res. Coord.

